

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 2, please replace the paragraph starting on line 29 with the following replacement paragraph:

--These and other objects of the invention are achieved by a tufted backing made of synthetic fibers or filaments interwoven in a three-dimensional structure, including only fibers or filaments having a titer of 1 to 15 dtex, i.e., the tufted backing is manufactured without additional binding components and is thus environmentally friendly. In addition, no reinforcing aids such as yarns or scrims are used. The mass per unit area of the tufted backing is 70 to 110 g/m², its density is 0.18 to 0.28 g/cm³ and the 5% modulus value in the machine direction is >60 N/5 cm but at least 0.6 N/gm² Nm²/g. The tufted backing has dimensional stability in subsequent processing in the tufting and dyeing operations.--.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph starting on line 9 with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The tufted backing is advantageously one in which the fibers or filaments have a titer of 3 to 12 dtex, and the 5% modulus value in the machine direction is 70 to 100 N/5 cm but at least 0.7 to 1.0 N/gm² Nm²/g.--.

On page 4, please replace the paragraph starting on line 14 with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The tufted backing nonwovens manufactured according to the present invention have the following properties:

- maximum shrinkage of 5% during manufacture of the carpet, and
- an initial modulus of 0.6 to 1.0 N/gm² Nm²/g.--.

On page 6, please replace the paragraph starting on line 6 with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The spunbonded nonwoven produced by the steps described above and having a mass per unit area of 90 g/m² had the following physical values:
thickness: 0.45 mm force at 5% elongation (longitudinal): 91 N/5 cm (specific modulus: 1 N/gm² Nm²/g force at 5% elongation (transverse): 40 N/5 cm--.

On page 10, please replace the section captioned ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE with the following replacement Abstract:

-- A tufted backing and a method of manufacturing a tufted backing from thermoplastic polymer fibers or filaments that are processed to yield a spunbonded nonwoven are described, the spunbonded nonwoven containing only fibers or filaments having a titer of 1 to 15 dtex, the mass per unit area of the tufted backing being 70 to 110 g/m², its density being 0.18 to 0.28 g/cm³ and the 5% modulus value in the machine direction being >60 N/5 cm, but at least 0.6 N/gm² Nm²/g---.